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The Middle East and North Africa 2012

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Editor: Christopher Matthews

Regional Organizations Editors: Helen Canton, Catriona Holman

Senior Editor, Statistics: Philip McIntyre

Statistics Researchers: Abhinav Srivastava (Lead Researcher), Mohd Khalid Ansari (Senior Researcher), Anuj Aggarwal, Charu Arora, Akshay Sharma, Prerna Kumra, Jasmeet Singh, Varun Wadhawan

Directory Researchers: Arijit Khasnabis (Lead Researcher), Esha Banerjee, K. Nungshithoibi Singha

Publisher and Series Editor: Joanne Maher

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FOREWORD

The year under review has been most notable for the series of large-scale anti-Government demonstrations in several countries across the Middle East and North Africa. Protests were first reported in Tunisia in late December 2010, with clashes between police and protesters demanding the ouster of President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali increasing in frequency and violence into 2011. Following the abrupt departure of Ben Ali on 14 January, similar movements arose elsewhere in the region: in Egypt President Hosni Mubarak and his Government were confronted by nation-wide protests from mid-January, before Mubarak was forced to transfer his powers to a council of senior military officers on 11 February. Later that month Libyan leader Col Muammar al-Qaddafi initiated brutal reprisals against groups urging his removal from power, prompting the UN Security Council to approve a resolution on 17 March authorizing the imposition of an air exclusion zone over Libya and enabling the formation of a NATO-led international coalition force to engage in military action to protect civilians from attack by armed forces loyal to Qaddafi. In late August Qaddafi was effectively toppled, as forces in support of the opposition National Transitional Council (NTC) took control of Tripoli, and on 20 October, as this edition went to press, it was confirmed by the NTC that Qaddafi had been captured and killed during fighting in his home city of Sirte. Meanwhile, in Syria the authorities continued to implement harsh measures in an attempt to quell demonstrations against the rule of President Bashar al-Assad; by mid-October the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights estimated that more than 3,000 people had been killed in Syria since protests began there in March. Clashes between government forces and opponents of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh escalated from late September following Saleh's return from Saudi Arabia, where he had been receiving treatment for injuries sustained in a bomb attack on his presidential palace on 3 June, and in Bahrain trial proceedings were ongoing against activists accused of fomenting the protests that had taken place in the capital, Manama, from early March.

On 23 September 2011 the Executive President of the Palestinian (National) Authority, Mahmud Abbas, presented to the UN General Assembly a formal application for full membership of the UN, requiring recognition of an independent Palestinian state. This followed a so-called 'unity agreement' between Hamas and Fatah, brokered by the new Egyptian Government, in May; however, discussions regarding the formation of a single administration for the Gaza Strip and the West Bank appeared to have reached a stalemate over the selection of a candidate for the post of Prime Minister.

The 58th edition of THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA, which went to press as President Demetris Christofias of Cyprus was under mounting pressure to resign from office, following the publication of a report critical of his conduct regarding the storage of seized weapons that were identified as the cause of a series of explosions at a southern Cyprus naval base in July 2011, provides detailed commentary on these and other developments in the region—such as the collapse of the 'national unity' coalition government in Lebanon, and the victory at a general election of Turkey's governing Justice and Development Party. Also examined are the ongoing discussions regarding the allocation of key government portfolios in Iraq and the approval at a national referendum of a new Constitution for Morocco.

The main political and economic developments at the regional, sub-regional and national level are comprehensively narrated and analysed in their historical and contemporary context. In addition to contributions from specialist authors, researchers and commentators, a calendar of the key political events of 2010–11 provides convenient, rapid reference to the year's main events. Specially commissioned introductory essays discuss the most pertinent issues in the region, such as the origins and development of political Islam and nuclear proliferation. Extensive coverage of international organizations and research bodies active in the Middle East and North Africa is included in a section of Regional Information, together with bibliographies of essential books and journals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Editors gratefully acknowledge the interest and co-operation of all the contributors to this volume, and of numerous national statistical and information offices, and government departments, as well as embassies in London and throughout the region, whose kind assistance in updating the material contained in THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA is greatly appreciated.

We acknowledge particular indebtedness for permission to reproduce material from the following publications: the United Nations' statistical databases and *Demographic Yearbook*, *Statistical Yearbook*, *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, *Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook* and *International Trade Statistics Yearbook*; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's *Statistical Yearbook* and Institute for Statistics database; the Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' statistical database; the statistical databases of the UNCTAD/WTO International Trade Centre; the statistical databases of the World Health Organization; the International Labour Office's statistical database and *Yearbook of Labour Statistics*; the World Bank's *World Bank Atlas*, *Global Development Finance*, *World Development Report* and *World Development Indicators* database; the International Monetary Fund's statistical database, *International Financial Statistics* and *Government Finance Statistics Yearbook*; the World Tourism Organization's *Compendium and Yearbook of Tourism Statistics*; the US Geological Survey; the International Telecommunication Union; the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia's *National Accounts Studies of the ESCWA Region*; and *The Military Balance 2011*, a publication of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, Arundel House, 13–15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX, United Kingdom. We are also grateful to the Israeli embassy, London, for the use of two maps illustrating the disengagement agreements between Israel and Egypt, and Israel and Syria (both 1974).

The following publications have been of special value in providing regular coverage of the affairs of the Middle East and North Africa region: *Middle East Economic Digest*; and *Keesing's Record of World Events*.

HEALTH AND WELFARE STATISTICS: SOURCES AND DEFINITIONS

Total fertility rate Source: WHO Statistical Information System. The number of children that would be born per woman, assuming no female mortality at child-bearing ages and the age-specific fertility rates of a specified country and reference period.

Under-5 mortality rate Source: WHO Statistical Information System. Defined by WHO as the probability of a child born in a specific year or period dying before reaching the age of five, if subject to the age-specific mortality rates of the year or period.

HIV/AIDS Source: UNAIDS. Estimated percentage of adults aged 15 to 49 years living with HIV/AIDS. < indicates 'fewer than'.

Health expenditure Source: WHO Statistical Information System. US \$ per head (PPP)

International dollar estimates, derived by dividing local currency units by an estimate of their purchasing-power parity (PPP) compared with the US dollar. PPPs are the rates of currency conversion that equalize the purchasing power of different currencies by eliminating the differences in price levels between countries.

% of GDP
GDP levels for OECD countries follow the most recent UN System of National Accounts. For non-OECD countries a value was estimated by utilizing existing UN, IMF and World Bank data.

Public expenditure Government health-related outlays plus expenditure by social schemes compulsorily affiliated with a sizeable share of the population, and extrabudgetary funds allocated to health services. Figures include grants or loans provided by international agencies, other national authorities, and sometimes commercial banks.

Access to water and sanitation Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) (Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation, 2010). Defined in terms of the percentage of the population using improved facilities in terms of the type of technology and levels of service afforded. For water, this includes house connections, public standpipes, boreholes with handpumps, protected dug wells, protected spring and rainwater collection; allowance is also made for other locally defined technologies. Sanitation is defined to include connection to a sewer or septic tank system, pour-flush latrine, simple pit or ventilated improved pit latrine, again with allowance for acceptable local technologies. Access to water and sanitation does not imply that the level of service or quality of water is 'adequate' or 'safe'.

Carbon dioxide emissions Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators database, citing the Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center (sponsored by the US Department of Energy). Emissions comprise those resulting from the burning of fossil fuels (including those produced during consumption of solid, liquid and gas fuels and from gas flaring) and from the manufacture of cement.

Human Development Index (HDI) Source: UNDP, *Human Development Report* (2010). A summary of human development measured by three basic dimensions: prospects for a long and healthy life, measured by life expectancy at birth; knowledge, measured by adult literacy rate (two-thirds' weight) and the combined gross enrolment ratio in primary, secondary and tertiary education (one-third weight); and standard of living, measured by GDP per head (PPP US \$). The index value obtained lies between zero and one. A value above 0.8 indicates high human development, between 0.5 and 0.8 medium available for all countries. In some cases other data sources were used to calculate a substitute value; however, this was excluded from the ranking. Other countries, including non-UNDP members, were excluded from the HDI altogether. In total, 169 countries were ranked for 2010.

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